

*Main Office*  
400 North Tampa Street, Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6358 (Fax)



*Post Office Box 600*  
200 West Forsyth Street, Room 700  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/232-2682  
904/232-2620 (Fax)

2110 First Street, Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
941/461-2200  
941/461-2219 (Fax)

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Middle District of Florida*

80 North Hughey Avenue, Room 201  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407/648-7500  
407/648-7643 (Fax)

---

Reply to: **Tampa**

August 15, 2001

**NINE TONS OF COCAINE SEIZED, TEN ARRESTED**

TAMPA - An indictment has been unsealed in Tampa against the ten members of the crew of the vessel Recuerdo: Alvaro Bolanos-Munoz, Jose Nieves Quinones-Grueso, Carlos Rodrigo Vallejo, James Antonio Salazar-Perez, Rodrigo Bolanos-Munoz, Indulfo Pandales-Angulo, Ruben Dario Sierra-Rodriguez, Arturo DeJesus Martinez-Vargas, Rigoberto Garcia-Gonzalez,, Ezequiel Valencia-Criollo. The Recuerdo was intercepted August 3, 2001, off the coast of Ecuador and found to be carrying more than nine tons of cocaine. The crew and cocaine were taken to the United States Naval Base in Mayport, Florida in a joint operation by the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard. The seizure is related to an ongoing investigation in the Middle District of Florida by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

The indictment was announced by Mac Cauley, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida; the United States Navy; the United States Coast Guard; the Joint Interagency Task Force; the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); United States Customs Service; and the United States Marshal service. Mr. Cauley praised the various agencies for their continued cooperation: "This interdiction is one of the largest single seizures in our on going investigation to stop the pipeline of drugs from the Eastern Pacific to the shores of the United States. The is a fine

example of the success that the combined efforts of the United States Navy, the United States Coast Guard and federal law enforcement can produce.”

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph K. Ruddy and W. Stephen Muldrow of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force in the Middle District of Florida.